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BENNETT PAYS TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ON 150TH ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON D.C. – Senator Bob Bennett, a 1957 graduate and former student-body president of the University of Utah, today made the following remarks on the floor of the United States Senate in commemoration of the university's 150th anniversary:

"Today, the 28th of February, is the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Utah. On this date we're looking back with nostalgia but looking forward with great excitement at the future of that particular university. It's a university to which I am attached, both in personal life and by legacy. Both of my parents graduated from the University of Utah. Both of my brothers and both of my sisters attended the University of Utah. I graduated from the University of Utah. My wife attended the University of Utah. We are a Utah family.

"The University started on the 28th of February 1850. For those who understand Utah history they will realize that the state, at least to the degree it is now, began on the 24th of July 1847. So for those who founded the state to focus on the creation of the University of Deseret, as they then called it, so quickly after they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley is a testimony to their vision and their determination to make higher education a very key part of their lives. At that time there was no infrastructure in the community, there were barely farm houses and farms that had been created.

"The first classes at the University of Deseret were held in private homes. The university has come a long way since that time and is now recognized as one of the premiere universities in the United States in a number of areas. The one that they are perhaps best known for is in medicine. The University of Utah is the site of the first artificial heart, and it has been the site of other medical breakthroughs. It is currently the home of the Huntsman Cancer Center, a hundred million dollar gift from the Huntsman family to fight cancer in the United States.

"The University of Utah stands as the flagship research school in my state, and, if I may be a little parochial, for a large part of the west. There are many things that are done at the University of Utah that radiate beyond our state borders, not only in medicine, but in other fields as well. We have a first class law school to go with the medical school; we give PhD degrees in a wide variety of subjects. The University of Utah is proud to have been in this business for a hundred and fifty years and I am proud as a Utah man to stand here on the floor of the Senate and pay tribute to the university and to those far sighted individuals who founded it a hundred and fifty years ago today."

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<http://www.senate.gov/~bennett>